State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Accident Forgiveness in Auto Insurance

Does it make sense for you?

BOISE ID (December 8, 2009) – Bad weather and increased traffic during the holidays are a recipe for increased auto accidents. The Idaho Department of Insurance suggests Idahoans take time to learn about how accident forgiveness works and decide if it is a smart insurance choice for them.

"Accidents can mean expensive repair and liability costs," says Bill Deal, Department Director. "They can also lead to higher insurance premiums."

Accident forgiveness means that an insurer agrees not to increase a customer's premium after the driver is involved in an at-fault accident. This perk may be included as part of a standard policy to loyal customers or as an additional endorsement that drivers with safe driving records can purchase.

In some cases, accident forgiveness is included as part of a standard auto insurance policy; however, the premium is typically higher for this added protection. More often, accident forgiveness is offered as a coverage option for an additional fee. Cost and eligibility for this option vary by insurer.

Talk to your insurance agent to learn about how your rates might be affected by an accident and whether accident forgiveness makes sense for your circumstances.

If you have questions about your policy, you can contact the Department of Insurance by calling 334-4250 in Boise or 800-721-3272 toll-free statewide. Or visit the Department's Web site, www.doi.idaho.gov.

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